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Missouri's Jobless Rate Continued to Rise in November

Unemployment in Missouri continued to edge up, reaching 4.3 percent in November, while employment seemed to stabilize.

The state's unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) increased three-tenths of a point from October. The unemployment trend has been upward since the end of last year besides some seasonal decreases in the spring and early fall.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, unemployment has been climbing since last December, other than a lull in the June-September period. In November, the seasonally adjusted rate increased two-tenths of a point to 4.7 percent, compared to 4.5 percent in October. The national seasonally adjusted rate jumped another three-tenths of a point this month to 5.7 percent.

Nearly 34,000 more Missourians are estimated to be unemployed now than in November 2000, and the unemployment rate has climbed by 1.1 percentage points.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, pointed out that the state's unemployment rate reflects the impact of the current recession. "Over the last 20 years in Missouri, decreases in non-farm, seasonally-adjusted employment of greater than 20,000 jobs over any three-month period were only experienced during general recessions," Driskill said.

"This occurred from April 1982 through December 1982 and September 1990 through June 1991. These recession-like employment conditions currently exist in Missouri. Fortunately, our unemployment rate is still running well below the national average; we are very hopeful economic conditions will begin improving next year and reverse this rise in unemployment."

Non-farm payroll employment has been falling in Missouri since January, on a seasonally adjusted basis, but declines have slowed in recent months. Employment was virtually unchanged in November at 2,753,200 jobs. Manufacturing employment actually increased by 2,500 jobs over the month to 374,300 as an automobile plant in St. Louis returned to work following a brief layoff. Employment in other manufacturing industries was mostly down over the month, but decreases were generally small.

Construction employment decreased by 3,700 jobs between October and November. Although employment tends to decrease seasonally at this time of year, the November decrease was larger than usual. Still, construction employment has held up well so far this year, and employment is up 500 jobs from the November 2000 level.

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In the private service-production sector, retail trade employment was up seasonally, but most other industry divisions lost jobs. The big gainer in retail trade was general merchandise stores, up by 2,400 jobs over the month. Most other retail industries showed small gains. Employment at eating and drinking places decreased by 1,900 jobs from October.

Wholesale trade employment was also down by 1,900 jobs, reflecting decreased manufacturing activity. Employment in the finance, insurance, and real estate industries decreased by 1,100 jobs over the month. Service industry employment decreased by 6,800 jobs from October. Hotels continued to shed jobs (1,700 this month), and amusement and recreation services dropped seasonally. Business services lost 600 jobs in November after rebounding slightly in September and October.

Employment in the transportation and utilities sector increased by 500 jobs. Government provided a boost to the labor markets, as employment was up by 5,400 jobs, mostly in the local sector (which includes public schools.)

Other than construction, the only other private industry division to grow over the past year is finance, insurance, and real estate. Employment there is up by 1,900 jobs, as banks and other depository institutions have grown by 1,100.

Missouri counties with the highest unemployment rates are: Douglas 11.2 percent; Reynolds 11.0; Linn 10.7; and Wayne 10.3. Those with the lowest are: Nodaway 1.2; Boone 1.7; Mercer 1.8; and Atchison 1.9.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (NOVEMBER 2001), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2001), AND YEAR AGO (NOVEMBER 2000)

	NOV 2001	OCT 2001	SEP 2001	NOV 2000		NOV 2001	OCT 2001	SEP 2001	NOV 2000
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	5.0	4.7	4.9	3.6	Atchison	1.9	2.2	2.6	2.2
MISSOURI	4.3	4.0	4.0	3.2	Audrain	3.8	4.0	3.9	2.9
ST. LOUIS MSA	4.5	4.5	4.3	3.4	Barton	3.2	2.7	2.9	2.3
Franklin	4.3	6.5	4.0	3.0	Bates	5.6	5.0	5.3	4.8
Jefferson	4.0	5.1	3.7	2.7	Benton	8.9	6.9	6.9	6.8
Lincoln	4.4	3.9	3.6	3.2	Caldwell	5.6	4.7	4.5	4.2
St. Charles	3.1	2.9	2.8	1.9	Carroll	4.0	3.4	4.1	4.1
St. Louis County	3.6	3.7	3.5	2.5	Cedar	4.0	3.2	4.2	3.6
Warren	4.4	4.3	3.7	3.3	Chariton	6.1	5.9	6.1	5.8
St. Louis City	7.8	7.3	7.7	6.1	Clark	7.3	6.8	6.3	3.5
KANSAS CITY MSA	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.1	Cooper	5.4	4.9	4.8	3.7
Cass	3.2	3.0	3.2	2.3	Crawford	6.2	6.2	5.3	5.1
Clay	2.9	2.5	2.7	1.9	Dade	3.1	2.9	3.4	3.8
Clinton	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.4	Dallas	7.2	5.8	6.1	6.0
Jackson	4.6	4.2	4.5	3.4	Daviess	3.7	3.4	4.1	3.2
Lafayette	3.6	3.3	3.7	2.9	DeKalb	3.8	2.8	3.2	2.5
Platte	2.9	2.4	2.4	1.8	Dent	8.1	6.5	7.7	6.3
Ray	3.0	2.9	3.4	2.9	Douglas	11.2	9.8	10.3	7.7
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.1	2.7	3.0	2.3	Dunklin	6.2	5.4	6.1	5.3
Christian	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.0	Gasconade	4.8	5.9	4.3	3.1
Greene	3.1	2.7	3.0	2.3	Gentry	3.5	2.9	3.1	2.6
Webster	3.6	3.1	3.4	3.2	Grundy	4.4	4.0	2.9	2.8
JOPLIN MSA	4.1	3.9	4.5	3.4	Harrison	2.8	2.1	1.9	3.0
Jasper	3.7	3.4	3.6	3.1	Henry	5.2	4.5	4.5	3.4
Newton	4.8	4.9	6.1	3.9	Hickory	7.8	6.7	7.2	8.1
COLUMBIA MSA	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.0	Holt	3.4	2.6	2.8	3.0
Boone	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.0	Howard	4.4	4.2	4.4	3.9
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.2	4.8	5.3	3.3	Iron	7.2	5.9	6.5	6.2
Andrew	4.2	3.7	3.9	3.2	Johnson	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.6
Buchanan	5.3	5.0	5.6	3.3	Knox	3.1	2.7	3.3	4.1
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	4.3	2.4	2.8	2.9	Laclede	5.9	4.7	5.1	4.2
Adair	4.3	2.5	2.8	2.6	Lewis	4.5	3.0	2.2	2.8
Schuyler	4.5	1.8	2.5	4.4	Linn	10.7	11.1	11.6	9.2
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	6.2	5.3	5.5	5.0	Livingston	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8
Butler	5.5	4.7	5.3	4.5	McDonald	5.3	5.1	6.1	4.0
Carter	6.5	5.2	5.4	6.0	Macon	7.4	6.3	6.9	6.6
Ripley	8.6	7.2	6.6	6.0	Madison	8.3	7.3	7.1	6.0
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	6.5	4.2	3.7	4.8	Mercer	1.8	1.5	2.1	2.9
Camden	6.5	4.1	3.6	4.7	Monroe	5.6	5.4	5.9	5.1
Miller	6.6	4.4	3.9	4.9	Montgomery	5.0	5.0	4.6	3.6
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	5.1	4.4	4.7	3.6	Morgan	7.2	5.6	5.2	5.8
Bollinger	9.1	8.0	4.5	4.2	Nodaway	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.3
Cape Girardeau	3.2	3.2	3.7	2.4	Ozark	5.6	4.4	4.5	4.2
Mississippi	8.5	6.8	7.1	8.1	Pemiscot	9.4	7.0	8.3	8.0
New Madrid	6.8	5.1	6.6	4.8	Perry	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.2
Scott	5.7	4.6	5.2	3.9	Pettis	7.6	6.6	6.6	3.4
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.1	Pike	5.2	4.8	5.5	3.6
Callaway	3.2	2.8	3.1	2.3	Polk	3.8	3.3	3.9	2.9
Cole	2.2	2.2	2.4	1.8	Pulaski	5.2	4.9	5.1	5.3
Moniteau	3.7	3.0	3.5	2.7	Putnam	4.4	3.2	2.9	4.0
Osage	3.7	4.8	1.9	2.9	Randolph	4.3	3.9	4.3	4.5
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	4.9	4.3	4.5	4.1	Reynolds	11.0	7.9	8.4	8.9
Howell	4.4	4.2	4.4	3.8	St. Clair	4.6	3.7	3.7	3.7
Oregon	4.1	3.8	4.2	2.9	Ste. Genevieve	4.5	4.5	4.1	2.5
Shannon	8.4	5.2	5.2	6.8	Saline	5.9	5.7	6.6	2.5
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	4.7	3.8	4.1	3.3	Scotland	4.1	3.0	3.1	2.4
Barry	4.6	3.5	3.9	3.7	Shelby	5.3	5.3	5.2	6.2
Lawrence	4.7	4.1	4.3	3.0	Stoddard	6.0	4.9	6.0	5.2
MARION-RALLS LMA	4.8	4.3	4.5	3.9	Stone	6.5	4.2	3.9	5.0
Marion	4.8	4.2	4.5	3.7	Sullivan	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.4
Ralls	5.0	4.5	4.6	4.4	Taney	3.6	2.7	2.9	2.7
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	3.2	3.1	3.2	2.5	Texas	7.8	6.3	5.6	6.1
Maries	3.7	3.9	3.7	2.5	Vernon	3.3	2.5	2.6	2.6
Phelps	3.0	2.9	3.1	2.5	Wayne	10.3	8.6	8.5	8.6
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	7.1	7.4	6.7	6.1	Worth	5.3	3.8	3.4	4.1
St. Francois	6.9	6.8	6.3	5.8	Wright	8.9	7.2	7.6	7.9
Washington	7.7	9.0	7.5	6.8					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.

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